



## By the King.

*A Proclamation inhibiting all persons after Bartholomew-tyde next, to vse the Trade of a Pedler or Pettie-Chapman, vnlesse they be Licenced according to a course lately taken by Vs in that behalfe.*



Whereas, by an Act of Parliament made in the nine and thirtieth yeere of the Raigne of Our late deare Sister Quene Elizabeth of famous memory, Intituled, An Act for punishing of Rogues, Vagabonds and sturdy Beggers: It was (amongst other things) enacted; That all Pedlers and Pettie-Chapmen wandering abroad, should be taken, adiudged, and deemed Rogues, Vagabonds and sturdy Beggers, and should sustaine such paine and punishment, as by the said Act was imposed: Which Statute was in the seventh yeere of Our Raigne ratified, and confirmed, and the same enacted to be put in due execution. And whereas the Trade of a Pedler, or Pettie-Chapman hath heretofore bene vlsed for the benefit and ease of Our louing Subjects dwelling remote from Cities and Market Townes, and for that cause the industrious and well disposed Pettie-Chapman, aswell before the said Statutes as sithence, hath bene in some sort permitted to trauaile and vse his Trade; And whereas vnder colour of vsing the said Trade, many Rogues and idle wandering persons, carying about triffles in the habite of Pedlers or Pettie-Chapmen, so misbeare themselves, as they are indeed no other but sturdy Beggers, theues and absolute dissolutes, and many of them being of no Religion, or infected with Poperie, carry abroad and disperse superstitious Trumperies, vnknowne and vn suspected, to the prejudice and wrong of Vs and Our louing Subjects: Whereupon, We (in Our Princely care of the Common Wealth) desiring redresse and reformation of all abuses in this kinde, in such sort as Our Kingdome might be purged of all dissolute and dissembling Wanderers; and yet the industrious honest Pedler or Pettie-Chapman be tollerated and encouraged to trauaile in his Location: And finding no better way to effect the same, then by Licencing such as should be knowne to be of good and honest conuersation: Did by Our Letters Patents bearing date the nine and twentieth day of March, in the fiftenth yeere of Our Raigne, Ordaine an Office to be kept in some convenient place within Our Citie of London, and in any other two or more Cities or townes Corporate within this Our Realme of England, or the Principalltie of Wales, for the Licencing of Pedlers, or Pettie-Chapmen: And by Our said Letters Patents, made certaine of Our Louing Subjects, (of whose care, honestie, and sufficiencie, We haue taken notice) Our Officers, for Licencing the said Pedlers and Pettie-Chapmen; And did thereby giue vnto them, their Deputies and Assignes, power and authoritie, to approue and allow of such person and persons to vse the said Trade of a Pedler or Pettie-Chapman, as should bring testimoniall vnder the hands and Seales of two of Our Justices of Peace of, or within the Countie or Counties, where such person or persons was or were borne, and did most vsually abide; Testifying the honesty of such person or persons, and of his or their fitnessse to be Licenced to vse the said Trade, and become bound vnto Vs, Our heires and successors with two sufficient Suerties in the penall summe of forty Pounds, to be and continue of Good behauiour towards Vs, Our heires and successors, and all Our leige people during their continuance in the said Trade: And that thereupon there should be Licences





drawne and engrossed for the said Pedlers or Pettie-chapmen, & be Sealed vnder the Seale of that Office, and confirmed vnto them vnder Our Great Seale : And that all other Licences whatsoever, not made by the said Officers by vertue of the said Letters Patents, should be vtterly boyd. And because in Our Princely Iudgement wee conceiue that the former abuses will not bee cleane taken away, nor the intended good and quiet of Our lo- uing Subjects fully perfected, without the suppressing of the said dissolute & obstinate Ua- grants, which shall vse the said Trade without such Licence : And for that the said Ped- lers, and Petty-Chapmen of the better sort, haue not yet so fully conformed themselves to Our wil and pleasure formerly declared by Our said Officers by Publications, notified by them, nor haue sought Licences accordingly, for that no precise day was appointed for their conformance in that behalfe. Wee therefore hereby doe straitly charge and command, pro- hibite and forbid, that no person or persons whatsoever, (other then such as shall be Licen- ced by force of, & according to the true meaning of Our said Letters Patents, Doe attempt or presume to wander, trauell or goe abroad in the habite of a Pedler or Pettie-chapman, nor to buy, sell or vtter any manner of wares or commodities whatsoever, in any place or places whatsoever within this Our Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, or in any part of them, or either of them from and after the feast of S. Bartholomew the Apostle next af- ter the date of this Our Proclamation, vpon the paines and penalties in the said Statutes made in the said nine and thirtieth yeere of the reigne of the said late Queene Elizabeth men- tioned and expressed.

And for the better effecting of Our wil and pleasure herein, we do hereby likewise strait- ly charge and command all, and singular Our Iustices of Assize, Iustices of Peace, Mayors, Sherrifs, Bailiffs, Constables and all other Our Officers, to take notice of this Our plea- sure, and of the said Letters patents, & to be from time to time in all things ayding & assis- ting vnto Our said Officers, their Administrators, Assignes and Deputies, in the due exe- cution of the said Letters Patents, according to Our gracious pleasure therein expressed: And doe likewise to their vttermost endeours, vse all the best wayes and means they may or can, and see, prouide, and take care that the said Statute and Statutes before mentioned, and the paines and penalties therein contained, may be duely executed, inflicted and impo- sed vpon the contemners or neglectors of this Our Royall commandement, as they tender Our pleasure, and will auoyd Our indignation and displeasure, and answere the contrary at their perils.

Giuen at Our Castle of Windsor the sixth day of Iuly, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the one and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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